

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 90
HARRISBURG 17108-0090

July 23, 2009

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR
QUALITY ASSURANCE

Joseph D'Amico, CRNA, Ph.D.
President
Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetist
234 North Third Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Dear Mr. D'Amico:

This letter is in follow-up to our meeting on June 29, 2009 regarding student registered nurse anesthetists (SRNAs) training in ambulatory surgical facilities (ASFs). In the meeting it was explained to the Department of Health (Department) that SRNAs are required to gain an established number of hours per clinical specialty. In some specialty areas, many of the procedures are now performed in the ASF setting, limiting the SRNAs' abilities to obtain adequate experience in specialty areas unless they can practice in ASFs.

After careful consideration of the information provided during that meeting and the ASF regulations, the Department agrees that SRNAs can train in ASFs under certain circumstances.

ASFs desiring to participate in an agreement with a school for nurse anesthetists may request an exception to the requirements of 28 Pa. Code §555.32(a) on an expedited basis if the following conditions are met:

- The SRNA trainee is enrolled in an educational program of a school for nurse anesthetists accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Educational Programs of Nurse Anesthetist of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetist, as approved by the State Board of Nursing under 49 Pa. Code §21.17.
- The SRNA trainee has, at a minimum, completed six months of training in an inpatient setting.
- The ASF is licensed by the Department as either a Class B or Class C ASF.
- The ASF shall enter into an agreement with the school at which the SRNA trainee is enrolled that shall set forth the terms and conditions of the use of such trainees in the ASF.

- At all times that the SRNA trainee is in the ASF procedure or operating room, the SRNA trainee will be under the immediate direct supervision of either a licensed CRNA or anesthesiologist. Immediate direct supervisor means that the CRNA or anesthesiologist is present in the room during the entire surgical procedure and continually monitors the SRNA trainee.
- Determinations on those procedures on which SRNAs will be involved shall be made jointly by the student's school and the ASF.
- The ASF shall verify that all student SRNAs shall carry professional liability insurance.
- The patient shall be informed that a SRNA will be involved in the procedure and the exact role of the SRNA in the administration, monitoring, etc. of anesthesia to be administered to the patient.
- All unplanned incidents or events involving delivery of anesthesia by a SRNA will be reported to the Department via the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting Systems (PA-PSRS).

Notification to the ASFs will be provided via the Department Message Board.

Please contact Melanie Waters, Director of the Bureau of Facility Licensure and Certification, at (717) 787-8015 if you have any questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to facilitate this area of training to SRNAs.

Sincerely,



Stacy Mitchell
Deputy Secretary for Quality Assurance

cc: Joanne Salsgiver
Jim Steele
Tanya Leshko
Melanie Waters
Peg Callahan Moyer